Page 10, line 22: Please delete "incorporated herewith by reference".

Page 11, line 10: Please change "Servers" to --Server--.

Page 12, line 24: Please change "performances are" to --performance is--.

Page 15, line 2: Please insert --the-- after "where".

Page 15, line 8: Please change "the" (second occupance) to --The--.

Page 16, line 14: Please change "measurements" to --measurement--.

Page 17, line 11: Please insert --a-- before "normal".

Page 19, line 5: Please insert --a-- before "Web".

Page 19, line 25: Please change "performances are" to --performance is--.

Page 28 (abstract): Please delete the paragraph indication between lines 12 and 13. Please also delete the reference to Figure 6.

In the Claims:

1   Claim 1 (Once amended) A method for dynamically selecting a firewall server [(603)]
2   for a web client [(601)], in particular a web browser [(601)], in a Transmission
3   Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) network comprising the a plurality of
4   firewall servers [(503)], said method comprising the steps of:

5   measuring performance and availability of each firewall server [(603)] using
6   measurement probes [(607)]; and,

7   dynamically selecting a firewall server according to the performance and

8   availability measurements [(607)].

1   Claim 2 (Once amended). The method according to [the preceding claim] <u>claim 1</u>

2   wherein the step of measuring the performance and availability of each firewall

3   server [(603)] using measurement probes [(607)] comprises the further step of [: .]

4   measuring the response time needed for retrieving from a web server [(605)] known

5   information, in particular one or a plurality of known web pages, through each

6   firewall server [(603);].

1   Claim 3 (Once amended). The method according to [the preceding claim] <u>claim 2</u>

2   wherein the step of measuring the response time comprises the further steps of:

3   establishing [(402)] a connection with the web server [(605)] through each

4   firewall server [(603)];

5   retrieving [(403)] the one or a plurality of known web pages from the web

6   server [(605)]; <u>and,</u>

7   checking [(405)] that the retrieved one or plurality of web pages contain one

8   or a plurality of known keywords.

1   Claim 4 (once amended). The method according to [any one of the preceding

2   claims] <u>claim 1 or 3</u> wherein the step of measuring the performance of each firewall

3   server [(603)] using measurement probes [(607)] comprises the further step of:

4   comparing each firewall server said measured response time with previous

5   measured response times; <u>and,</u>

6   determining for each firewall [(603)] the degradation or the amelioration of the

7   measured response time.

1   Claim 5 (once amended). The method according to [any one of the preceding

2   claims] <u>claim 1 or 3</u> wherein the step of measuring the availability of each firewall

3   server using measurement probes [(607)] comprises the further step of:

4   detecting failures on each firewall server; <u>and,</u>

5   excluding firewall servers in failure from the step of selecting a firewall server.

1   Claim 6 (Once amended). The method according to [any one of the preceding

2   claims] <u>claim 1 or 3</u> wherein said firewall server [(603)] is a proxy server [(304)] or

3   [/and] a socks server [(311)].

1   Claim 7 (Once amended). The method according to [any one of the preceding

2   claims] <u>claim 1 or 3</u> comprising the further steps of:

3   processing performance and availability measurements [(607)] from a single

4   universal resource locator (URL) system [(606)]; <u>and,</u>

5   dynamically creating a configuration file based on the performance and

6   availability measurements, preferably in <u>the</u> Javascript language, on said universal

7   resource locator (URL) system [(606)] for selection said firewall server [(603)].

1   Claim 8 (Once amended). The method according to [any one of the preceding

2   claims] <u>claim 1 or 3</u> wherein the step of dynamically creating a configuration file is

3   processed by a common gateway interface (CGI) [(608)] on said universal resource

4   locator (URL) system [(606)].

1   Claim 9 (Once amended). The method according to [any one of the preceding

2   claims] <u>claims 1 or 3</u> wherein the step of selecting a firewall server [(603)] comprises

3   the further step of [: .} downloading the configuration file from the universal resource

4 locator (URL) system [(606) to the web client, in particular to the] web browser

5 [(601)].

1 Claim 10 (Once amended). The method according to [any one of the preceding

2 claims] <u>claim 1 or 3</u> wherein the steps of measuring performance and availability

3 and of dynamically selecting a firewall server [(603)] are periodically processed in

4 the universal resource locator (URL) system [(606)] and the configuration file

5 created by the common gateway interface [(608)] (CGI) is periodically downloaded

6 to the web client [(601)].

1 Claim 11 (Once amended). The method according to [any one of the preceding

2 claims] <u>claim 1 or 3</u> comprising the further steps of:

3   pre-selecting a backup firewall server [(603)] in a background process; <u>and,</u>

4   switching to said backup firewall server in case of failure of the selected

5 firewall server.

1 Claim 12 (Once amended). The method according to [any one of the preceding

2 claims] <u>claim 1 or 3</u> wherein <u>the</u> step of selecting a firewall server according to

3 performance and availability measurements comprises the further step of [: .]

4 selecting the firewall server according to the Internet Protocol (IP) address.

Claim 13. Please delete this claim without prejudice.

1 Claim 14 (new).A program product for dynamically selecting a firewall server for a

2 web client, in particular a web browser, in a Transmission Control Protocol/Internet

3 Protocol (TCP/IP) network comprising the a plurality of firewall servers , said

4 program product comprising the steps of:

5   programmatically measuring performance and availability of each firewall

6   server using measurement probes; and,

7   dynamically, using programmatic means, selecting a firewall server according

8   to the performance and availability measurements.

1   Claim 15 (new). The program product according to claim 1 wherein the step of

2   measuring the performance and availability of each firewall server using

3   measurement probes comprises the further step of programmatically measuring the

4   response time needed for retrieving from a web server known information, in

5   particular one or a plurality of known web pages, through each firewall server.

1   Claim 16 (new). The program product according to claim 15 wherein the step of

2   measuring the response time comprises the further steps of:

3   programmatically establishing a connection with the web server through each

4   firewall server;

5   programmatically retrieving the one or a plurality of known web pages from

6   the web server; and,

7   programmatically checking that the retrieved one or plurality of web pages

8   contain one or a plurality of known keywords.

1   Claim 17 (new). The program product according to claim 14 or 16 wherein the step

2   of measuring the performance of each firewall server using measurement probes

3   comprises the further step of:

4   programmatically comparing each firewall server said measured response

5   time with previous measured response times; and,